



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** I would like to know if an unsupervised needle aspiration of a pneumothorax on a neonate is within the scope of practice for a respiratory therapist. If so, where can I find this information? I have checked the 2000 edition of the Respiratory Care Board's rules and regulations. I couldn't find anything that was even close to inferring a therapist could do this procedure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Response:** Please be advised that although this is not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act, in the RCB's judgment, is inferred and allowed. The RCB strongly suggests that a respiratory care protocol, as defined in Business & Professions Code Section 3702 (previously mailed to you), be developed to establish guidelines for the performance of this procedure.

Reference # 2000-C-55